

BIRDS OF SOUTHERN LOUISIANA

BY ALFRED M. BAILEY AND EARL G. WRIGHT

[Continued from page 142 of the June number]

AMERICAN BITTERN. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. This is a rather common bird throughout the year. They were observed during the past summer at Avery Island, May 13; at Chenier au Tigre, May 23; and in Cameron Parish, June 7. While we found no nests, we saw an immature with down on the head feathers, at Chenier au Tigre. We were going through waist-high grass, collecting Seaside Sparrows. It was a particularly favorable place for cotton-mouth moccasins, for they like to sun themselves upon the matted vegetation. Suddenly, as we were walking along, Bailey was struck a sharp blow upon the hand. It is safe to say that he was considerably relieved when he found it was a young bittern unable to rise from the tangled grass, rather than a moccasin, which had caused him to lose two years' growth.

LEAST BITTERN. *Ixobrychus exilis*. This, the smallest of our herons, is very common throughout the lowlands during the summer. A few winter, it is said, but we have no records. They were so common that specific records are unnecessary. Bailey recorded them common at the mouth of the Mississippi River during the last week in October, 1928, and in Cameron Parish on November 1. Several nests typical of the species, were found at Chenier au Tigre during the latter part of May, 1930. The earliest date we have is a nest with four eggs found by Bailey at Chenier au Tigre, May 6, 1917.

GREAT BLUE HERON. *Ardea herodias herodias*.

WARD'S HERON. *Ardea herodias wardi*. Large herons are common throughout the year. We collected no specimens and made no effort to determine the forms observed. *Ardea herodias herodias* is undoubtedly the common one during the winter months, while *wardi* is given as the breeding subspecies. We found a nesting colony of twenty or more pairs in Cameron Parish among the cypresses. Young of the year were in flight, and others, half grown, were still in the nests. Bailey collected two specimens in this colony in March, 1918, both breeding birds. One was under the minimum in length for *herodias*, and the other was over the maximum for *wardi*. The large size of the *wardi* seems the only diagnostic feature (inasmuch as colors are not dependable) in determining between *wardi* and *herodias*. As the size of the birds in the same colony vary from the minimum of the small form to the maximum of the large one, it will be seen that determining the race to which a bird belongs is rather a difficult task.

AMERICAN EGRET. *Casmerodius egretta*. These beautiful herons are becoming more abundant each year. They were uncommon fifteen

years ago, but they have increased wonderfully, and are now common throughout the marsh country. Flocks of fifteen or more were seen at the mouth of the Mississippi, the latter part of October, 1928, and a dozen or more could be seen at any time near Chenier au Tigre, the first part of December, 1925. The majority of the birds migrate south, but a few remain the winter through. We made motion pictures of the egrets in Cameron Parish, where a dozen pairs nested on Bird Island, the nests usually being placed in the high cypresses. Young were observed nearly full grown, while others had just hatched, on June 1. Mr. Stark showed us a roost in the tules on his property near the gulf; the birds assembled in company with a few Snowy and Louisiana Herons, at sundown, and alighted on the matted vegetation. We estimated that there were more than one thousand birds. We were disappointed in the colony on Bird Island, for it has not increased in size in the last fifteen years. Many Black Vultures hang about the colony, and it is probable that they destroy the young birds.

SNOWY EGRET. *Egretta thula thula*. This species has also benefited by years of protection, and is now one of the common birds of the marshlands; it was persecuted by the feather hunters until it was on the verge of extinction. Mr. E. A. McIlhenny's heronry on Avery Island is one of the finest examples of practical conservation in the country; he has a small artificial pond in which he planted button bushes and willows, and years ago, when the Snowy Herons were few in numbers, he captured several pairs of young and kept them in captivity over the summer. They were liberated in the fall, and a few returned the following spring and nested; they have returned year after year. Other species have joined them, and there are several thousand pairs of birds now nesting within a few hundred feet of a busy factory. A train runs within thirty feet of the nesting birds, and during the season, hundreds of motorists drive along the roadway to admire the unique sight—all without interfering with the housekeeping in the least. These same birds, so tame in the nesting colony, are far different in the open marsh. They are as wary as any other heron, and when they fly to and from their feeding grounds, they trek high in the air until over their home port, and then descend abruptly upon half-closed wings. There are many colonies scattered throughout the lowlands, but the one at Avery Island is the largest of all. In other colonies, the Snowy Herons prefer to nest among the low growths at the edge of clumps of cypresses. While this is often a common form in winter, by far the greater number move south during the coldest

months. Very few of the Snowy Egrets nest on the offshore islands. At Avery Island, many young birds were half grown on May 15, 1930, while other nests contained fresh eggs.

LOUISIANA HERON. *Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*. This is probably the most common of the medium sized herons; it is resident the year around and its distribution is general throughout the lowlands. Many hundreds nest at Avery Island, and the species will be found in every colony of herons. Unlike the preceding, these birds are common on the offshore islands where they nest on the tangled vegetation. They are pugnacious fellows, and as they are armed with strong beaks, they are capable of caring for themselves. Messrs. Arthur and Bailey once found a dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo upon the nest of this species. The heron had jabbed the egg robber in the side of the head.

LITTLE BLUE HERON. *Florida caerulea*. This is a common bird, and like the preceding, generally distributed. The majority migrate southward during the winter, but a few will remain during cold weather. While these birds are found in the same colony with other herons, they seem to choose isolated sections for themselves. They are very common at Avery Island, and many photographic studies were made during the past summer. The immatures are white, greatly resembling the young of the Snowy Heron. There are many mottled herons in changing dress in the spring, often referred to as the "calico birds", and Mr. McIlhenny has secured excellent photographs of specimens nesting in their transition plumage.

GREEN HERON. *Butorides virescens virescens*. This is a common form, but it does not nest in large colonies. The nests will be found in the bushes along bayous and canals, or hidden away in the heavy vegetation along the edge of the swamps. The Green Herons nest in the colonies of other marsh birds, but rarely more than a few pairs will be found within a given vicinity. It is a resident, but the majority winter in the south, the bulk of them returning in March.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*. These birds are common the year around. They may be seen rising from the marsh growth at dusk, as they fly from their resting to their feeding grounds. A few pairs will be found nesting in most of the large heronries, and they are common nesting birds of the offshore islands where their frail platforms are placed on low bushes.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. *Nyctanassa violacea*. We have no winter records for this species, but it is a common one during the summer. It was not observed so often during the past season, however, as in former years. There were comparatively few to be seen in the

heronry at Bird Island in Cameron Parish and we failed to find a nest, whereas we had no difficulty in locating several in other years. The yellow-crowns are often found nesting in scattered colonies in the deep swamps, where they make their nests in high trees, and they feed in the open marsh. They are prized by the local people as game birds.

WHOOPING CRANE. *Megalornis americana*. This fine bird has been nearly exterminated; few are to be found where it was once a common form. In November, 1916, Messrs. Arthur and Bailey saw three birds at Chenier au Tigre, and several were seen the following fall. Three were reported wintering six miles from the ridge in 1925, and we were told that two were seen during the winters of 1929-30-31. It would seem that this bird will soon be classed with the Passenger Pigeon and the Great Auk.

FLORIDA SANDHILL CRANE. *Megalornis canadensis pratensis*. The sandhill crane is a rare bird during the breeding season, and as far as we know, is confined to western Louisiana. The only definite nesting record is a downy young one secured by Mr. Stanley C. Arthur in Cameron Parish in the summer of 1917. He kept the bird alive for some time in Audubon Park, and when it died, still in its downy stage, it was presented to the Louisiana State Museum.

SANDHILL CRANE. *Megalornis canadensis mexicanus*. The Sandhill Crane was formerly fairly numerous in western Louisiana, but it has become rare in recent years. Several large flocks wintered near Cameron Farm in 1919, and they were often seen during the latter part of February. It was a wonderful experience to see these long-winged birds sailing high overhead, and often to hear their guttural voices when the cranes were so high they were nearly lost in the blue. It is certain that these birds were not resident in the region; resident cranes are few and far between, so they were doubtless the migrating form. Four cranes were observed at Chenier au Tigre. In addition to the young *pratensis* in the Louisiana State Museum, there were several adult cranes from Cameron Parish which doubtlessly belong to *mexicanus*. In 1925, Mr. James L. Peters proposed the above names; it will be noted that he considers the sandhill as a subspecies of the Little Brown Crane.

KING RAIL. *Rallus elegans*. This common marsh bird is a resident of the state, and several nests were found by Mr. McIlhenny and the adults collected, in May, 1930. Young of various sizes were also taken with the parent birds. A series of adults shows that they vary greatly in color, few of them being as brightly marked as northern birds. Also, they appear to average slightly smaller. Owing to the

rail's secretive habits, they are difficult to observe, but late in the evening or early in the morning of mid-May, we often saw the adults along the edge of the ponds with their broods of black-clothed youngsters. As Avery Island is inland from the Gulf, the marshes are fresh water. No King Rails were observed near salt water, in summer, but they were very common in winter throughout the lowlands. Bailey collected four at Chenier au Tigre, January 15, 1919.

LOUISIANA CLAPPER RAIL. *Rallus longirostris saturatus*. This is the common breeding form of the brackish and salt marshes. Its nesting habits seem similar to those of the King Rail, except that the one is usually found in fresh water marshes while this form prefers the coastal areas. We have several nesting records: a set of five eggs in low marsh growths on Snake Island, May 12, 1917, and another of nine eggs on Alexander Island the same day. We found a nest on Chenier au Tigre, May 23, 1930, with eight eggs; it was in a little marshy area just back from the ridge. We attempted to photograph the bird on the nest, from a blind, but the rail deserted her eggs. *Saturatus* is a common resident.

VIRGINIA RAIL. *Rallus virginianus*.

SORA RAIL. *Porzana carolina*. These two forms are common during the fall and winter. When one is tramping the marsh, they will be seen as they rise awkwardly from the grass, with long legs dangling. They often remain late in the spring. We saw a Virginia Rail in Cameron Parish, June 3, 1930. Many of both species are killed by stepping into traps which have been set for muskrats.

YELLOW RAIL. *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. We saw no specimens during the season of 1930, and although the form is recorded as common, Bailey has observed but one, on Grand Isle, March 15, 1919, a single specimen which was flushed by a dog. We have a specimen, a female, which was collected in the latter place by E. S. Hopkins, on March 31, 1928. Beyer, Allison, and Kopman say the form is fairly common in the rice fields in winter.

PURPLE GALLINULE. *Ionornis martinicus*. This beautiful bird is common in the marsh country during the summer. We have no winter records. We found many nests in the vicinity of Chenier au Tigre and in Cameron Parish; in the latter place we made motion films of the gallinule on her nest, and found that the reactions of the adult on the nest were similar to those of the King Rail—after eyeing the camera lens for a few moments, she began to pull the grass back in front of the nest. Gallinules occasionally plunder the nests of other birds, and on one occasion, at Avery Island, Bailey saw one climb

upon the nest of a Louisiana Heron, look around quickly as though fearing an interruption, and then grab a pot-bellied youngster by the head and run off through the vegetation with the young heron swaying back and forth like a pendulum. We found nests in Cameron Parish with only one and two fresh eggs, June 1, while half grown broods were seen at Avery Island a few days earlier.

FLORIDA GALLINULE. *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*. This is a common form in summer, which is often found nesting in the same region with the above species; in fact, nests were found at Avery Island the past season, within a few yards of the nests of their near relatives. One nest we have cause to remember, was situated in a small isolated clump of button bushes and grass in rather deep water. It was ideally located for photographic purposes, until we discovered (or had it impressed upon us) that a hornet's nest was hidden eighteen inches above the eggs.

COOT. *Fulica americana*. These birds, locally known as *Poule d'eau*, are extremely abundant during the winter. They begin to arrive early in October, and they are characteristic birds of the marshes until late in spring. A few remain throughout the summer, and we believe those observed in Cameron Parish the first week of June, 1930, were breeding. We have no proof, however, other than that a Coot flushed from a tangle of water plants in which was a newly constructed nest. Purple Gallinules were building in the same vicinity.

BLACK-NECKED STILT. *Himantopus mexicanus*. This form is a common one, locally. The stilts prefer open lagoons with muddy shores, and their eggs are laid upon the bare ground in sparse vegetation. The courtship antics of these birds are interesting; they gather in a group, and males will crouch over, wings held open horizontally, quivering up and down. They keep up a continuous indescribable screeching, the birds running back and forth, stopping momentarily with open wings, crouching, and then going through the whole performance again. Stilts were common in Chenier au Tigre in the spring of 1917, 1918, and 1919, but canals have been dug through the marshes, and the water level lowered, so conditions are no longer favorable. Several nests with three and four eggs were found in this vicinity May 5, 1917 and May 11, 1918. In regard to their courtship, Bailey records under the latter date, "the stilts are peculiar birds, and when disturbed near the nest, they crouch down and ruff out their breast feathers and scold in high-pitched voices. When excited, they jump in the air, fluttering their wings, for all the world like a yell leader at a football game; and again, they often hold their wings horizontally, quivering and calling monotonously."

We found three downy youngsters which had just left the nest, in Cameron Parish, June 3. The nest was upon the bare mud of a canal bank. The long-legged babies had no objection to water, and paddled lustily along after they had waded beyond their depth.

WOODCOCK. *Rubicola minor*. We have few records of this species. Mr. McIlhenny reports them more common at Avery Island during the winter of 1929-30 than for many years previous. Bailey saw a few birds at this locality in November, 1918, and others in a "branch" at Bogalusa the first week in March, 1917. They can no longer be considered a common form, except possibly in a few areas. We were told that hunters sometimes used lights to locate Woodcocks.

WILSON'S SNIPE. *Capella gallinago delicata*. This species is a common one in the coastal marshes, in many places. They prefer wet, muddy areas with suitable cover, in preference to the deep marshes. They arrive early in the fall and are abundant until December, again becoming common in February and April. Their occurrence is irregular, however: they may be abundant in a given locality one season, and few will be seen in the same place the following season at the same time.

DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus griseus griseus*.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus*. Both forms occur commonly during the fall, winter, and spring: they are often seen in large flocks along the tidal flats, and at times they are very tame. Non-breeding individuals remain all summer. There is such individual variation in these birds that it is practically impossible to positively distinguish between them. The "bird observer" is unfortunate, for the plumage of the sexes is the same, so it is impossible to tell whether a live bird is a male of one form or a female of the other. Three specimens collected June 11, 1930, along the east coast, would probably be referred to *griseus*.

STILT SANDPIPER. *Micropalma himantopus*. We have but one record for this species, one collected in a marshy area back of Chenier au Tigre, April 6, 1919, by Bailey.

KNOT. *Calidris canutus rufus*. This species is a rare straggler along the coast. Two in high plumage were collected by E. Kalmbach on Errol Island, June 6, 1919, and Wright took one, a female in gray plumage, off the east coast, June 9, 1930.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. *Pisobia maculata*. This is a common form in spring and fall, but we have no winter records. It is often seen in grass-grown marshy areas. A few were observed at Avery Island as late as May 11, and Wright collected one on this date.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. *Pisobia fuscicollis*. This is not a common bird, according to our experiences. They were quite plentiful, however, during the first week in May, 1930, and Messrs. McIlhenny and Wright secured a half dozen highly plumaged specimens. We have no winter records.

LEAST SANDPIPER. *Pisobia minutilla*. This is a fairly common bird during migration, when it may be seen in flocks, associated with Red-backed and Semipalmated Sandpipers. A few stragglers remain during the summer, and several were observed on Breton Island, June 9. They were fairly common on Avery Island, May 7, and at Chenier au Tigre, May 22, 1930.

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER. *Pelidna alpina sakhalina*. This is a common bird during migration, and usually they are plentiful along the coast during the winter. A few remain throughout the summer. They were very common in Vermilion Parish, November, 1916, and the following spring, many were observed at Chenier au Tigre. Specimens collected on May 5 were acquiring their new plumage, and were full of pinfeathers. They were numerous March 6, 1917, at the same station, and were common on Lost Island, December 8, 1918. They may be seen feeding upon the tide flats in company with other species.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. *Ereunetes pusillus*. These little pipers are common during migration, and often during the winter. They arrive on the coast early in October; they were numerous at the mouth of the Mississippi, October 25, 1928. They seem to be irregular in their occurrence, however, for they may be plentiful in a given region one season, and none will be observed the following year in the same locality. We have records for all seasons except midsummer. It is a wonderful sight to see great flocks of these graceful sandpipers as they perform their aerial evolutions, turning and twisting, now flashing their white underparts, and again, as they turn their gray backs to the observer, nearly fading from view.

WESTERN SANDPIPER. *Ereunetes mauri*. This is a fairly common species during the migration, and often, during winter. Many were observed in Vermilion Parish in November, 1916, and several flocks were seen daily at Chenier au Tigre in early December, 1925.

SANDERLING. *Crocethia alba*. Sanderlings are abundant during migration, and a few remain during the winter. They are very common along the coast during the early spring, and several were observed on Breton Island the first week in June. The majority noted in May were in their gray and white plumage.

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. *Totanus melanoleucus*. This is not an abundant form, according to our experiences. It is found all along the coastal marshes, but not in as great numbers as are many other species. They arrive early in the fall. For a few specific dates, Bailey records, "common in Bayou German, Vermilion Parish, November 17, 1916, Chenier au Tigre, May 5, 1917; few noted in Cameron Parish, November 1, 1928." We have no records for midwinter.

LESSER YELLOW-LEGS. *Totanus flavipes*. The Lesser Yellow-legs occur in the same localities and are about as numerous as the preceding species. We find, however, that the majority of our records are for the spring months. A few were observed at Chenier au Tigre, May 5, 1917; they were common the following year on March 15 and April 6, 1919. During the spring these birds are pugnacious, and on the latter date Bailey records, "the yellow-legs were fighting like game cocks all over the tide flats."

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. *Tringa solitaria solitaria*. This is a common form and is generally distributed during the migration in early spring and fall. We have no winter records. Many return from the north early in September, and they become scarce by the latter part of November. They are rather common during April, but the majority leave for the north early in May.

EASTERN WILLET. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*.

WESTERN WILLET. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. Willets are common along the gulf coast the year around. It is probable that the wintering birds are *inornatus*, although we have no specimens on hand to verify this. Beyer, Allison, and Kopman, and Arthur call the breeding bird *inornatus*, but Bent has identified all specimens he collected in Louisiana and Texas as *semipalmatus*. A study of the measurements of eight breeding birds from Chenier au Tigre is interesting. They measure as follows:

	Culmen	Wing	Tarsus
4064 ♀	58	203	57
3865 ♀	61	200	60
♀	62	205	60
4197 ♀	59	208	61
4143 ♂	60	196	60
4195 ♂	55	190	55
4198 ♂	58	195	58
4196 ♂	56	199	56

If one compares these measurements with those given by Ridgway, it will be seen that the Louisiana breeding birds are intermediate

between *semipalmatus* and *inornatus*, and as some author has said, "could with equal propriety be referred to either form".

Some of the specimens appear typical of *semipalmatus*, while others are less heavily barred below and are slightly lighter above. Willets are common nesting birds all along the coast and on offshore islands; they are exceedingly tame, and give an intruder in their midst a noisy reception. They gather in small bands to hurl recriminations at one's head, when a breeding area is invaded. The nests are rather well constructed and are well hidden in the grass, and, as with other shore birds, are hard to find.

BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER. *Bartramia longicauda*. This species has become rare of late years, and our only observations are from the vicinity of New Orleans where a few birds were seen during the middle of March, 1917. It was once a common and well loved game bird of Creole hunters, but due to persecution over a great part of its range, its numbers are now woefully few. We have no winter records. There are a half dozen specimens in the Chicago Academy collection, taken by Beyer at New Orleans in the spring of 1890.

BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER. *Tryngites subruficollis*. We have only two records; on February 27, 1919, Bailey collected a specimen at Cameron Farm, Cameron Parish, and from the same region two were taken by Thomas Hoffman about August 12, 1919.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*. This is a common form in spring and fall, and a few may be seen during the summer months. It is not a bird of the tide flats so much as it is of the mud banks of fresh water streams, so it is more apt to be seen in the interior of the state than along the coast. We have no winter records.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW. *Numenius americanus*. This form is not abundant during migration, but it was recorded on many of Bailey's trips along the coast. None was observed during the fall migration, but a few were noted during the months of January, March, and April at Chenier au Tigre, and two stragglers, a late record, on the Chandeleur Islands, June 7, 1918. Invariably the long-bills were found upon the tidal flats where they were feeding upon fiddler crabs.

HUDSONIAN CURLEW. *Numenius hudsonicus*. These fine birds are rather common at Chenier au Tigre during migration. A few may winter (we have no winter records), but the majority pass south of this region. At times they may be seen in flocks of one hundred or more as they rest upon the mud bars or feed on fiddler crabs on the tide flats. A few specific dates are as follows, for the Chenier: November 17, 1916, a few noted; May 6, 1917, common; May 11,

1918, common; April 6, 1919, several flocks observed. On this date one was taken which was very thin, as though just in from a long flight. The men of the Chenier said the birds seen on this date were the first for the spring. A couple of dozen late stragglers were seen May 22-27, 1930, at the same place.

AMERICAN BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. *Squatarola s. cynosurae*. The "sea pigeon", as the Creoles call this plover (*Pigeon de mer*), is a common resident of the coast. They are abundant during migration in the spring and fall, many remain throughout the winter, and stragglers in gray plumage may be seen throughout the summer. We have recorded them on every trip to the coast, regardless of the season—in fact, no bit of wind-whipped beach would seem like Louisiana without these fine shore birds to complete the picture. Our notes for this species, under the different months from November to May, are always the same, namely, "common". Strangely enough, we have never, to our knowledge, observed the Golden Plover in Louisiana, although a close watch was kept for it on every field trip.

KILLDEER. *Oxyechus vociferus*. These birds are very common in the fall, winter, and spring, their distribution being so general that specific occurrences are unnecessary. They are rather common during the summer, and they nest regularly at Chenier au Tigre and in Cameron Parish. We saw many nesting pairs in both localities during the season of 1930. In the latter place, the birds seemed to nest along the highways, possibly because of the safety given from high water by the slightly elevated roads.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. *Charadrius semipalmatus*. This is a common form during spring and fall, but we have never seen it in such large bands as other shore birds. They arrive from the north early in September—many were seen at the mouth of Main Pass during October, 1928—and by November, the majority pass south of our borders. We have no winter records. They are most abundant in April, as they return from the south. We saw a few at Avery Island, May 10-15, but failed to record the species in other localities.

WILSON'S PLOVER. *Pagolla wilsonia wilsonia*. This is the common summer form along the exposed sand beaches. They nest all along the coast and offshore islands, and their plaintive notes may be heard at all times of the day. They lay their eggs in slight depressions in the sand, and when an intruder comes near, they creep away and then run back and forth, calling plaintively in their efforts to attract attention from the nest. On Breton Island, Messrs. Arthur and Bailey found a nest by back-tracking a nesting bird through the fine

beach sand, the dainty footprints being easy to follow. We doubt that the species winters in any numbers along the Louisiana coast.

RUDDY TURNSTONE. *Arenaria interpres morinella*. Turnstones are common all along the coast. They are found at all seasons of the year, as many non-breeding birds remain throughout the summer. They work along the beaches, and are especially busy when onshore winds are rolling the waves high; then the shore line is continually changing and these agile fellows find an abundant food supply. On one occasion, June, 1919, on the mud lumps at the mouth of the Mississippi, Bailey saw turnstones breaking and eating eggs of the Caspian Terns.

OYSTER-CATCHER. *Haematopus palliatus*. These fine shore birds are summer residents of the offshore islands, the majority being found off the east coast. A pair noted during June, 1918, on the bird islands east of Marsh Island, is the only record we have west of the river. These birds are far from common; in fact, one may visit many localities without a sight of one. During the past season we cruised for a week among the bird islands, and saw them only on North Island—six birds. We searched carefully for nests, in the hope of making motion pictures, but were unsuccessful in finding one. We have a few records from other years. Bailey found a nesting pair, June 7, 1918, on the Isle de Pitre. Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson captured the young one, a half grown bird; it had brown eyes, with a brown eye-ring, and the bill was of dark ochre with scarcely any sign of red. The adult has a bright coral red beak, yellow eyes, and flesh-colored legs and feet. Other records are: two noted on the Chandeleur the same date, one on Free Mason Keys, June 7, 1919, and two at Elephant Pass the following day. The boatmen tell us that one may expect to see a few birds in the same localities.

BOB-WHITE. *Colinus virginianus*. Avery Island is the only locality south of the Southern Pacific tracks from which we have recorded quail. There, owing to ideal conditions, and protection offered them by Mr. McIlhenny, they are still numerous. The cheery "bob-white" of the male is only one of the incentives for the field man to be out early in the morning. According to Mr. McIlhenny, nesting begins the latter part of April. Specimens at hand are much smaller than typical *virginianus*, but we have not sufficient material for comparison at this time.

ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN. *Tympanuchus americanus attwateri*. This form seems doomed to extinction within the state. If any survive, it is in the western part, along the Texas border. Bailey records the species but once, February 26, 1919, at Cameron Farm.

Cameron Parish, when two birds were flushed. During the past season, we worked on the same farm, and we were told that no "chickens" had been seen for years.

MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. This bird is a resident, but is much more numerous in winter, when northern birds arrive, than in the summer. It is generally distributed over the higher portion, especially about the fields. They nest rather commonly within the area covered by this paper, and we found them commonly during May. Several nests were found in the live oaks, and some of them were substantial affairs in comparison with the fragile platforms usually built. As the doves are considered game birds, thousands are shot during the open season.

TURKEY VULTURE. *Catharta aura septentrionalis*. This is a common resident of the region, but it is not so numerous as the next form. It is more abundant during winter, when northern birds have congregated near the marsh country.

BLACK VULTURE. *Coragyps urubu*. Common resident. The two vultures are rather unpopular with the trappers of the marsh country, for the birds have the unfortunate habit of destroying the pelts of fur bearing animals caught in traps. They are found all over the south, and act as scavengers in many of the little backwoods communities. In spite of the fact that the birds nest commonly, and Bailey made several trips especially to find nests, he never succeeded in doing so. We found the form too numerous in the heronry in Cameron Parish, and have no doubt that the failure of the colony to increase in size can be laid directly to the plundering of nests by these black pirates.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE. *Elanoides forficatus*. This species is rare in Louisiana. In three years' field work, Bailey failed to record it. There is a specimen in the Louisiana State Museum taken by E. S. Hopkins on Grand Isle, Louisiana, in April, 1927, and Mr. Hopkins informed us he had seen two others in the same locality in April, 1930.

MISSISSIPPI KITE. *Ictinia mississippiensis*. This is another species which has been recorded as common, and yet one may take trip after trip along the coastal marshes and fail to record a specimen. It is a summer resident, however, and during the seasons of 1917, 1918, and 1919, Bailey saw a pair which nested in a great tree on Avery Island. Mr. McIlhenny said the birds had been using the general site for many years. During the past season we saw a single bird near New Iberia, but none was observed at Avery Island, where they were always found in other years. On May 25, at Chenier au Tigre, we saw six of these fine little fellows sailing westward along the coast. They were

so low they barely cleared the tall live oaks, so we had a good opportunity of observing them as they passed overhead.

MARSH HAWK. *Circus hudsonius*. This is a very common bird during the early fall, winter, and spring. It is said to nest in the southwestern part of the state (in Cameron Parish), but we saw only one specimen during our trip of 1930. They are the most numerous of the birds of prey, however, at other seasons. In 1928, they were common at the mouth of the Mississippi by the middle of October. Owing to the fact that Marsh Hawks occasionally destroy fur in traps, and take crippled ducks, they are not held in high esteem by the people of the marsh country.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. *Accipiter velox*. This bird is seen occasionally over the marsh; it is far from being a common form, but a few will be seen on each trip in the fall and winter. Bailey collected one November 17, 1916, along Vermilion Bay.

HARRIS'S HAWK. *Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*. This is a rare species. Mr. McIlhenny has secured a few specimens from time to time, at Avery Island. One, a female, was taken on October 1, 1918, and is in the Louisiana State Museum.

RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo borealis borealis*. A common winter bird; they prefer wooded areas rather than the marsh country, but pairs may be seen sailing over the ridges along the gulf at any time of day, and the familiar cry of the red-tail is one of the characteristic sounds of mid-winter.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. *Buteo lineatus lineatus*.

FLORIDA RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. *Buteo lineatus alleni*. These hawks are fairly common in the marsh country; the former occurs in winter, while the latter is said to be the breeding bird. We took no specimens to verify the identification. Several were noted at Avery Island during May; in fact, one would have to be a poor observer not to see one form or the other on any trip along wooded bayous.

BALD EAGLE. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. These birds are generally distributed in the southern part of the state, making their nests in the great cypress trees—usually in the dense swamps. Two nests, however, which Bailey has examined, were in rather isolated clumps of trees along Black Bayou in Cameron Parish, and one of them was scarcely thirty feet from the ground. This nest contained a newly-hatched young and an addled egg on February 27, 1919. On Avery Island, February 2 of the same year a nest in a great cypress contained two large downy young. As hunters try to kill eagles at every opportunity, the birds are becoming rare, and have no chance to rear

their young except in remote regions. One will occasionally be seen sailing over the marsh, but it is a fortunate observer who witnesses such a sight.

DUCK HAWK. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. These fine fellows are often seen during winter and at migration time, over the marshes. At least six individuals were making life miserable for the Sanderlings on Timbalier Island during November of 1916, and although we sympathize with the Sanderlings, there is no grander sight in nature than a fast flying Duck Hawk as he swoops upon a victim. Several birds were noted at the mouth of the Mississippi River during October, 1928. We speak of a hawk as being common if we see a few on a given trip, while ducks are rare if we see one hundred during the same time. There is no such thing as a common hawk, with the single exception of the Marsh Hawk, for one will travel long distances and see only a few birds.

PIGEON HAWK. *Falco columbarius columbarius*. These fine little fellows are more numerous than the above, but one will not see many on a week's excursion. They are occasionally seen in the marshes or wooded ridges, and they secure an easy living among the flocks of small birds. One, collected on Chenier au Tigre during December, 1925, had been feeding upon Myrtle Warblers. A few were seen at the mouth of the Mississippi River the last week in October, 1928 (Bailey), but we did not observe the species during the trip of 1930. Mr. Hopkins collected a female on the Chenier, March 10, 1931.

SPARROW HAWK. *Cerchneis sparveria sparveria*. These handsome fellows are found about the ridges in the fall, winter, and spring, but we have no summer records from the coastal plains. They are not numerous, only a few being seen in a given region. A dozen or more were observed along the Mississippi the latter part of October, 1925, however, on the run from Buras to Pilot Town, and two lived in the trees near "Chateau Canard", the shooting lodge of Mr. Joseph Leiter.

OSPREY. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*. Again we must differ from the opinion of other writers of the birds of this region; this is another hawk which is far from "common". It is a resident of the state, however, nesting in limited numbers, but the only nest we have seen was in a large lake on Avery Island, during May of the past season. The site was a beautiful one, high up in a dead cypress, and the bulky nest decorated with waving Spanish moss. We saw but one other bird, on Chenier au Tigre, May 23.

BARN OWL. *Tyto pratincola*. Barn Owls frequent most of the oak ridges, and several pairs have nested on Chenier au Tigre for the last

fifteen years. They are resident wherever found, and are well distributed over the southern portion of the state. We were shown the nest of an owl of this species on the Paul Rainey Reserve; it was in a box placed high up in the warden's watch tower. The tower was several miles from the nearest timber, so the barn owl in this case had the extensive marsh as his hunting country. Muskrats and Boat-tailed Grackles seemed to make up a good percentage of the food of this particular pair, as was shown by the pellets. Often times the nests are in abandoned buildings, or in buildings in use only a part of the year. While this species is nocturnal, birds are often flushed during the day. Three young were hatched in the box mentioned above, in 1931, the first on March 7, the last five days later.

SHORT-EARED OWL. *Asio flammeus*. Wright flushed an owl from the roadway at night, on Avery Island, May 21, which he identified as this form. It was seen by Wright, his brother, and Mr. Komarek, so there can be little doubt of the identification, although it seemed late in the season. In three years' field work, Bailey did not record this species. Mr. Hopkins collected a specimen at Buras, March 4, 1931.

FLORIDA SCREECH OWL. *Otus asio floridanus*. Screech owls are to be found in all parts of the state; as they are nocturnal, they are heard more often than seen, so one has little opportunity to observe them. Two specimens collected at Chenier au Tigre proved to be this subspecies. Several families live in various parts of Avery Island, and we have observed or heard them at the mouth of the Mississippi, on Pecan Island, and in Cameron Parish.

GREAT HORNED OWL. *Bubo virginianus virginianus*. These fine birds are not numerous, but they are widely distributed. A pair has nested for many years back of Mr. McIlhenny's home on Avery Island; he protects the owls until they become too numerous, and then a few are killed. These horned owls secure an easy living, for they have thousands of nesting herons within a few yards of their home. The owls nest early, of course, before the herons are in numbers, but there are many other species of wild fowl to choose from in February and March. A few of these owls may be found upon the ridges bordering the gulf, and Bailey observed one or two from time to time at Chenier au Tigre, the last record being in December, 1925. The birds are resident wherever found.

BURROWING OWL. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea*. Records for this owl for southern Louisiana are few; Bailey collected one on Chenier au Tigre, March 6, 1918, and another on December 10, 1925. Both proved typical *hypogaea*. Mr. Hopkins collected three specimens on

Grand Isle, one in April, 1926, and two the following April. All were dark colored birds, and one is now in the Louisiana State Museum, and one in the collection of the Department of Conservation.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus americanus americanus*. These are very common birds throughout the lowlands in spring, summer, and fall; they are often flushed from the thickets far out in the marshes, at which time they dart rapidly back and forth through the fast growing vegetation. We found them very common on Chenier au Tigre in May, and on the bird islands in the gulf during June. On June 3, 1917, Bailey and Mr. Arthur found a cuckoo dead upon the nest of a Louisiana Heron, where it had undoubtedly been killed by a thrust from the heron's beak. We were told that the cuckoo often eats the eggs of other birds.

BELTED KINGFISHER. *Ceryle alcyon alcyon*. This species is not common during summer; a few may be seen daily along the canals and bayous in almost any part of the marsh country during the fall, winter, and spring, but during the past season our only records were from Avery Island, where several birds were seen.

SOUTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Dryobates villosus auduboni*. Fairly common in the wooded regions, usually, although we did not record an individual during the past season. They are seen most often when one is sitting quietly in the woods, especially in the fall when deciduous trees have dropped their leaves.

YELLOW-BREADED SAPSUCKER. *Sphyrapicus varius*. This is not a rare bird in winter in wooded portions of the coastal plain. We have not recorded it from Chenier au Tigre during the several winter trips, but they are seen quite often at Avery Island. Mr. McIlhenny reports them fairly common, at times. Many were seen on the Chenier during March, 1931.

PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Phloeotomus pileatus pileatus*. The Cock of the Woods is becoming rare over most of the range; the heavy swamps bordering Avery Island are ideal, but the birds are far from numerous. From one to a half dozen were observed on practically every excursion into the swamps during the seasons of 1917, 1918, and 1919. During June, 1919, three were seen in the orchard back of Mr. McIlhenny's home. Wright observed one in a cypress, June 10, 1930. Owing to the birds being so large, they offer a target to thoughtless hunters, and are in need of careful protection.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Not a common form of the swamp country. As with many forms, Avery Island is the best place to observe this species. A few were noted

in New Iberia, May 10, and a few daily, probably the same individuals, at Avery Island. We found that even in this southern part of its range, the red-head is being killed by automobiles, for one was observed in the road between New Iberia and Avery Island. It nests sparingly.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus*. This is the common woodpecker of the forested areas of the lowlands; they are resident, and are seen daily in practically any of the southern woods. Several specimens were collected on Avery Island, and they averaged considerably smaller than northern breeding ones.

FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus auratus*. Common during winter in open wooded areas; uncommon during the summer months. A few were observed at Avery Island, but they were not recorded from other areas the past season. They are too numerous on Chenier au Tigre in the winter, for they have the unfortunate habit of drilling into the houses—a procedure which makes them rather unpopular with the people. Specimens collected all proved to be this form. Mr. Hopkins collected a hybrid near Covington, January 10, 1931, which had several red feathers in tail and wing.

FLORIDA NIGHTHAWK. *Chordeiles virginianus chapmani*. Early in fall there is an incoming flight from the north, birds which are probably *virginianus*, the northern breeding form. The only specimens we have examined, however, have been local breeding birds, and these were identified by Mr. Peters as *chapmani*. They vary greatly in color, and average much lighter in coloration than *virginianus*. Nighthawks are very common along the coast and on offshore islands during the summer. They usually have two eggs which are laid upon the sand or ground; the nesting sites vary from the open beaches to places upon the ground, under palmettos and live oaks. Several nests were found the latter part of May, and half-grown young were seen on Brush Island the second week in June. Birds collected in the western part of the state appear identical with those taken along the eastern border.

CHIMNEY SWIFT. *Chaetura pelagica*. This is a common species in summer in southern Louisiana, and it nests throughout the region. A nest with three eggs was located in the chimney of our cottage on Avery Island. During the early part of the season swifts are not so apparent as in the latter part—the last of June and July—when the young are on the wing.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. *Archilochus colubris*. A fairly common form in migration, and a few remain and probably breed in

the region under consideration. We observed them at Avery Island early in the past season. They are often rather abundant about the gardens of New Orleans.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER. *Muscivora forficata*. We have never been fortunate enough to observe this species in life, but the men on the Chenier told us that "forked-tailed" flycatchers had been seen the week previous. Mr. Hopkins has taken three on Grand Isle, one of them on April 2, 1927, and he secured another on Bayou Lafourche, April 1, 1930.

KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. This bird is found commonly throughout the region during the summer; its nests are found along canal and bayou banks where the vegetation overhangs the water. One could not take a trip along the inland waterways in June without flushing a few from their nests. One pair, which we recorded in the movies, had a beautiful nest made from Spanish moss; it was placed in a button bush in the middle of the heronry pond on Avery Island. Squawking young herons were near neighbors, but the Kingbirds did not seem to mind. They were so tame, they made ideal subjects for the photographer.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER. *Myiarchus crinitus*. This is a common form in the wooded sections, and their strident voices are characteristic of the southern region. They were seen daily at Avery Island and Chenier au Tigre during May, 1930. This species arrives at the latter place with other migrants the last week in March, are numerous for a few days, and then the majority of them move northward.

DERBY FLYCATCHER. *Pitangus sulphuratus derbianus*. Early one morning we were walking along the beach at Chenier au Tigre, watching the Wilson's Plover running ahead when we saw a large flycatcher rise from a log of drift, flutter upward as though catching an insect, and then drop to perch. We placed the glasses upon it and saw immediately that it was a bird with which we were unfamiliar. It had a black patch across the head, and bright yellow underparts. Wright collected the specimen, which proved to be a fine-plumaged Derby Flycatcher, the first record for this species from Louisiana, we believe. The normal range of the species is along the Rio Grande in Texas, and southward.

PHOEBE. *Sayornis phoebe*. This is a common winter bird. They begin to arrive in October and remain until April, and a visitor to the wooded areas between these months will note them daily. They were particularly common on Avery Island and Chenier au Tigre in December, 1925.

WOOD PEWEE. *Myiochanes virens*. This form occurs chiefly during migration. In November it is fairly numerous, and one of the delights of still hunting for deer along the wooded regions, is to watch the small birds working through the tree tops. Small warblers are ever on the move, but the pewee often sits motionless on twigs over the water, and then comes suddenly to life long enough to flutter into space, seize an insect, and drop back to perch. We have one specimen, a male, collected at Avery Island.

BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*. This is a common, but not an abundant, form in any one locality. The birds assemble in the pecan groves, and at times, harvest more than their share of the crop, so they are not well liked by the natives. They appear more abundant in the southern part of their range during the winter than in the summer; they are common on Chenier au Tigre, for instance, during the cold months, but they are rarely seen during the breeding season. On a visit to the Chenier in May, 1930, we failed to see a jay, and only a few were observed daily on Avery Island, while they were abundant in March, 1931.

CROW. *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*. This species is resident, but is more common inland than upon the coast; they occur along the higher ridges, such as Chenier au Tigre, at all seasons, and at times come into the fields in numbers. They are very common at Avery Island throughout the year, and they are even found on the delta of the Mississippi. Several were recorded October 22, 1928, at the mouth of Main Pass.

FISH CROW. *Corvus ossifragus*. These small crows are common on Avery Island. Mr. McIlhenny showed us a nest containing three eggs, on May 12, 1930. They are found along the entire coast, but we never observed them in great numbers. On Chenier au Tigre, for instance, not more than a dozen birds were seen in a week's time. December, 1925, and only six at once, as they gathered in a tree to torment a Barn Owl. We saw several about the heronry on Bird Island in Cameron Parish; they may have been nesting, or merely waiting to steal eggs from the nesting birds.

BOBOLINK. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. This is said to be an abundant bird at times, during migration, but we have never seen it in numbers. It arrives early in the fall, during September and October, and many gather in the rice fields. A few were seen at Avery Island the second week in May—the only records we have for the season.

COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater ater*. These birds are residents in the southern section, and distributed generally in favorable localities. A

flock of fifteen or more hung about our headquarters on the Chenier au Tigre, and we saw a good many on Avery Island and in Cameron Parish. A specimen collected proved typical *ater*. A close watch was kept for *obscurus*, which, according to Kopman, is a fairly common bird north and west of New Orleans. We failed to record it.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*.

SOUTHERN RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. *Agelaius phoeniceus littoralis*. Blackbirds are exceedingly common throughout the lowlands of the Gulf Coast. The breeding form, which is abundant, is given as *littoralis*, while specimens collected in the winter of 1925 proved to be *phoeniceus*. Red-wings are ever present, and often are so numerous as to present a serious problem to the rice growers.

SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK. *Sturnella magna argutula*. This is a very common bird, and we found it in favorable localities over the entire area. They were particularly plentiful in the vicinity of Avery Island where a nest was found on May 17. They are also plentiful during the winter, and were in full song in December, 1925.

ORCHARD ORIOLE. *Icterus spurius*. This is a common breeding bird on the southern lowlands. The first arrivals make their appearance the middle of March, and nest building commences a month or more later. The seasons vary, however; on the Chenier we found nests with small young, and others which were not completed, the last week in May. Wherever little peninsulas of willow and other small trees project into the marsh, or where the banks of meandering tidal streams are overhung with tall growths, there one will find the beautiful, strongly-made nests of these orioles. The males were in full song during our trip, and we were surprised to find birds in second year plumage breeding.

FLORIDA GRACKLE. *Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus*. This is a rather common bird, but is more evident after the breeding season, when they have congregated into flocks. They are found about habitations, and a few were collected at Avery Island. In addition, they were observed at Chenier au Tigre the latter part of May, and in several localities along the Mississippi below New Orleans, on June 7. On this date we saw them flying singly over the river and oftentimes they would hover over a given area, and then pick something from the water, much as Black Terns do.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE. *Megaquiscalus major major*. This is a very abundant bird and it nests all through the marsh country. The nesting period begins the latter part of March and extends through

June, and, in one colony among the tules on the Chenier, on May 27, we found nests being built and others which contained half grown young. After the breeding season, the "chocks" form in large flocks and oftentimes raid the rice fields along with the red-wings, much to the displeasure of the farmers.

GOLDFINCH. *Astragalinus tristis tristis*. This is a common winter visitor in the vicinity of New Orleans and northward, but we have seen few in the southern area; they may be seen daily in winter on Avery Island, along the edges of the fields.

SAVANNA SPARROW. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. This is a common form in winter, being found on high ground, in the fields, and even in the marsh. They begin to arrive in October, and remain until late spring (April).

Passerculus sandwichensis subsp. There is a dark form found along the coastal marshes. Bailey secured specimens in December, 1925, and several additional ones were taken by Messrs. McIlhenny and Wright in May, 1930, at Avery Island. All observed at this late date were dark colored, but specimens collected were not nesting. Those collected at Chenier au Tigre in 1925 were submitted to Mr. Outram Bangs for identification, and his reply, as published in the *Auk*, Vol. XLV, was as follows:

"Three very dark birds from Louisiana, with very blackish upper parts, deep chestnut edges to wing feathers, much black on the head and intense black stripes below. These are so different from eastern specimens of *savanna* that I feel pretty sure they represent an undescribed form. Where does this form breed is the question. I wonder if it can be resident and breeding in the marshes of Louisiana. They are too large to be stray migrants of the California *bryanti*, and are also still darker, or rather, blacker than that form. There is a rather dark Savannah Sparrow that breeds in Wisconsin and Michigan and migrates to Arkansas, Texas (sometimes), and Tarpon Springs, Florida. (though most of the specimens from there are the eastern bird). This form, which is rather ill defined, is, however, much less blackish than your birds. We have four skins from Louisiana, one taken at Rigolets as late as April 4. These are much nearer to yours than they are to eastern specimens of *savanna*, and are the darkest of our several hundred Savannah Sparrows."

A close watch was kept for these dark plumaged birds, in May, 1930, and March, 1931, on Chenier au Tigre, where the above-mentioned specimens were taken in December, 1925, but we failed to see one.

NELSON'S SPARROW. *Passerherbulus nelsoni nelsoni*. These common winter visitors are found in the salt marshes bordering the gulf. We have collected specimens in December on Chenier au Tigre, and found them very plentiful in "needle grass" at the mouth of Main Pass the latter part of October. Hunters in blinds have many opportunities to observe these little fellows, for they are rather secretive and are easily alarmed. They have a quick, erratic flight, and when flushed, will dart away for fifteen or twenty feet, and then dive out of sight in the thick vegetation. We have no summer records.

LOUISIANA SEASIDE SPARROW. *Ammodramus maritimus fisheri*. This is a common nesting species of the salt marshes, and was observed all along the coast. The males were in full song, and often we would see half a dozen at a time, scattered over a considerable area, perched upon the marsh grass. Specimens collected at the mouth of Main Pass in October, 1928, were molting, and many had new tail feathers half grown.

HOWELL'S SEASIDE SPARROW. *Ammodramus maritimus howelli*. Three specimens taken on offshore islands off the east coast of Louisiana were grayer than birds taken to the westward, and slightly larger. They were sent to Mr. Peters who identified them as *howelli*. The habitats of the two birds seem to be different, for the latter were found on low islands where the coarse vegetation was scant and low, and the islands were flooded at high tide. The Louisiana Seaside Sparrows were always found in heavy grass where oftentimes it was almost impossible to find a specimen after it was collected.

Two nests of this race were found, both about one foot above the water, in "sea cane". One nest contained four fresh eggs, and the other, four newly hatched young. A photographic blind was erected at the latter place and motion films were made of the old one as she returned to brood the nestlings. This form was observed on Breton, Brush, and the Chandeleur Islands, and along the low salt marshes inshore from these islands.

SWAMP SPARROW. *Melospiza georgiana*. This is a very common winter bird of the southern area. It arrives the latter part of October, and thereafter is a conspicuous form along the edges of the fields bordering the oak woods. They were very numerous at Avery Island and Chenier au Tigre during December, 1925. They leave for the north the latter part of April.

TOWHEE. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*. This is not a common form in the southern section; in fact, the only place we have recorded it is from Avery Island. One was collected May 13.

and a few others observed. They occur there regularly, according to Mr. McIlhenny, often coming around his home where they find abundant food in the nearby garden.

LOUISIANA CARDINAL. *Cardinalis cardinalis magnirostris*. This form, described by Mr. Bangs, is very common, and, owing to its beautiful plumage, is the most conspicuous of the song birds. Specimens collected proved to have heavier beaks than northern birds, and seemed to bear out Mr. Bangs in his opinion. We have two skins from Arkansas, however, which are like the Louisiana birds. We found several nests in the low mesquite, and one was located within fifty feet of the gulf. The nest was made of grass and Spanish moss, and was decorated with a big piece of snake skin. We made motion films of the female on her nest; she proved shy and was frightened at the whirr of the camera, but we finally secured a good strip of film. The male flew into the near vicinity a few times, but in the two days we had the nest under observation, it never offered to aid in the work of incubation. Another nest observed contained young, and the adults were feeding them on cicadas.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. *Hedymeles ludovicianus*. Not an abundant bird, and only seen in late spring and early fall. We did not observe a single individual the season of 1930 or 1931. We have one specimen, a male, taken by E. S. Hopkins, May 3, 1925, at Grand Isle.

PAINTED BUNTING. *Passerina ciris*. These beautiful fellows are fairly common during the summer. A few were seen on Avery Island in May, but we failed to find a nest. They prefer heavy thickets bordering fields, and in spite of the fact that they are protected, they appear very timid. They are most conspicuous in the middle of March, when they make their first appearance along with other migrants.

SCARLET TANAGER. *Piranga erythromelas*. These tanagers occur in the southern portion only in migration, and unless one is afield for the few brief days, he is likely to miss the species altogether. When they first appear along the coast, on Chenier au Tigre or Grand Isle, the middle to latter part of April, they rest from their over water flight for a few days, and then move northward. One spring, the exact date which we failed to keep, Messrs. Arthur and Bailey were offshore on a Department of Conservation boat, when a tired tanager came alongside, hesitated, and then dropped upon the deck. It was merely exhausted. They were but a few miles offshore, and the bird flew away shortly after.

SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga rubra rubra*. Not common in the lowlands except along the ridges during migration. They arrive in early April and depart in October. Mr. E. S. Hopkins presented us with a male collected on Grand Isle, April 29, 1925. Bailey has recorded them from Grand Isle, Chenier au Tigre, and Avery Island.

PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne subis subis*. These are common birds during the summer. They arrive earlier than the majority of migrants, the last of February or first week in March, and leave again in September. On Avery Island they were nesting in bird houses made from joints of bamboo, the latter part of May.

BARN SWALLOW. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. Occurs commonly as a migrant. Oftentimes when the migration is at its height, they will be seen in numbers, but they usually disappear, for the most part, by the middle of May. We were fortunate the past season, in seeing them at Avery Island on May 9, Chenier au Tigre, May 24, and in Cameron Parish (Ged), May 31. They arrive from the north rather early in August and September. Bailey saw a few at the mouth of Main Pass, October 22, 1928. The majority leave for the south by early November.

TREE SWALLOW. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. This migrant is very common, and a few seem to remain throughout the summer. They were observed at Avery Island only, however, during the past season. Some years they remain all winter, and Bailey found them over the marshes by thousands in December, 1925, at Chenier au Tigre.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. A few of this species were observed at Avery Island, but no specimens were collected. The identifications were made by Mr. McIlhenny who stated that the Bank Swallows were not found on the island so late in May.

CEDAR WAXWING. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. These fine little northern birds make their appearance on the Gulf Coast in late winter. The earliest we have recorded were those seen by Bailey on Chenier au Tigre the first week in December, 1925. They remain late in the spring, some not making their departure until the first week in June. This past season, 1930, we saw them in flocks at Avery Island on May 12—several bands of twenty or more individuals, and on Chenier au Tigre on May 22. We saw approximately fifty birds at the latter place.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*. A common breeding bird of the area, which is to be seen daily during the summer months. Its status as a wintering bird has not been worked out, however; at least, we have no records for the cold months.

MIGRANT SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus migrans*. Shrikes are common in winter, and it is possible that the majority are the northern breeding birds. Specimens collected at Chenier au Tigre in December proved to be *migrans*.

RED-EYED VIREO. *Vireosylva olivacea*. This is a common bird in summer. It arrives at Chenier au Tigre early in March, and is a conspicuous bird upon the ridge for a few days; then the wave passes on, leaving comparatively few. We saw many, however, the latter part of May, often in willows and other low growths along the meandering streams, far back in the marsh.

WARBLING VIREO. *Vireosylva gilva gilva*. Common during migration in March and April on the Chenier, but not observed at other seasons; the earliest record we have for the ridge is March 4, 1918. There were only a few birds at this date.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO. *Lanivireo solitarius solitarius*. This is not an uncommon bird in winter, especially at Avery Island. We have two records for the Chenier, a specimen collected in December, 1918, and another March 10, 1931.

WHITE-EYED VIREO. *Vireo griseus griseus*. A fairly common bird during the summer; they are found in wooded areas, especially in the vicinity of water. Many were observed at Avery Island in November, 1925—which we believe to be a rather late date.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*. Rather common along the ridges in migration. They arrive early and a few may remain through the summer. We have a pair taken at Grand Isle by E. S. Hopkins, March 31, 1928.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. *Protonotaria citrea*. Common during migration, and a few may be observed daily along wooded bayous. It is one of the most beautiful of the southern birds. They arrive early. We have one specimen taken at Grand Isle, April 11, 1928, by E. S. Hopkins. Bailey has collected several near New Orleans, during the months of April and May.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER. *Lymnethlypis swainsoni*. We have no record of this form from the area under consideration, although it undoubtedly occurs in favorable places. Bailey saw a few birds at Mandeville, across the lake from New Orleans, in July, 1916, and there were several specimens in the Louisiana State Museum collected from the same region.

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER. *Conuothlypis americana pusilla*. This is a fairly common breeding bird of the region. It seems to prefer moist areas at the edge of the swamps. Strangely enough, we did

not record a single specimen in 1930, but in other years many have been seen on the Chenier, at Avery Island, and in the vicinity of New Orleans. They are most evident when they first arrive from the south, the latter part of March. At this time the deciduous trees are still without their full foliage, and small birds may more readily be observed.

YELLOW WARBLER. *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*. This is a common bird during spring and late summer. One was observed on the Chenier, May 21, a rather late date. They become common again during August. One was seen at the mouth of the Mississippi River, at Chateau Canard, October 22, 1928, which seems to be a late fall record.

MYRTLE WARBLER. *Dendroica coronata*. This is one of the really common winter birds. It is found throughout the wooded areas of the south, and along the wooded edges of fields. It arrives the latter part of October and remains until April, when it joins the other migrants on their northward journey.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. *Dendroica magnolia*. This is a common form during the fall migration, especially on the higher ridges. Specimens were taken near New Orleans by Bailey, May, 1918.

CERULEAN WARBLER. *Dendroica caerulea*. Not abundant. It arrives rather early in the spring and leaves early in the fall. Bailey collected specimens near New Orleans, and we have a male taken by E. S. Hopkins, April 15, 1928.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. *Dendroica pensylvanica*. Not common; aside from a few taken near New Orleans in May, 1918, the only definite record we have is a specimen taken by E. S. Hopkins at Grand Isle, April 13, 1925.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. *Dendroica fusca*. We have no personal records, but Mr. Hopkins presented us with a male taken April 15, 1925, at Grand Isle.

SYCAMORE WARBLER. *Dendroica dominica albilora*. The only record we have of this species is a fine female taken at Chenier au Tigre March 10, 1931. Mr. Hopkins states that he has observed them regularly during migration at Grand Chenier, but that they are not numerous.

PALM WARBLER. *Dendroica palmarum*. A not uncommon wintering bird; many were seen on Avery Island in November and early December, 1925, and a few on the Chenier the first week of December.

MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas trichas*.

FLORIDA YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas ignota*. Yellow throats are common in the marsh country, and during May and June

they may be heard singing on all sides. The breeding bird is *ignota*, while it is probable that the majority of wintering birds are *trichas*. Both forms were collected at the mouth of the Mississippi River, near Pilot Town, October 22, 1928.

HOODED WARBLER. *Wilsonia citrina*. This is a common bird throughout the wooded lowlands during the summer. They arrive rather early in the spring and remain until well into October. Bailey has taken specimens in New Orleans in May.

PIPIT. *Anthus spiolitta rubescens*. These northern visitors are generally distributed during the winter months. They were numerous in the Chenier au Tigre in March, 1931, and specimens were collected.

SAGE THRASHER. *Oreoscoptes montanus*. The only records we have for this form were given us by Mr. E. S. Hopkins who collected a male and saw five others in Cameron Parish, January 1, 1928. Mr. Hopkins' records are the first from Louisiana, we believe.

MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*. This is a common bird the year around throughout the entire region. They have interesting habits during the mating season. Under the date of March 3, 1918, Bailey writes: "We had a good trip down Bayou Vermilion, and we saw several mockers going through courtship antics. Perched on the highest limb of a tree, exactly as do the Cardinals, with throats swelled and beaks pointed upward, they could literally be seen singing. After an outburst of song, a bird would spring a few feet into the air with wings and tail spread to their greatest extent, and then, drifting downward, would alight gracefully and start singing again. Coming down the bayou, we saw at least six of these fine songsters in the courtship role, presumably males, so I have no doubt it is a characteristic performance." Most of the young had left their nests on Chenier au Tigre by the last week in May, 1930.

CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis*. Occurs in migration, but not commonly. A few winter during mild seasons, but winter records are rather rare. Bailey recorded two on Chenier au Tigre the first week in December, 1925.

BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum*. We have no summer records from the southern area, but the thrasher occurs commonly throughout the area in migration. They winter in small numbers, and on Chenier au Tigre, December, 1925, they were fairly numerous. A few could be seen in an hour's walk. The birds were shy and remained in heavy cover.

CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*. These are common residents, being found on all the ridges and wooded areas.

They can be heard singing early and late at all seasons of the year. Even in December, when "northers" make humans shrivel to a small size, the wrens were out singing. Nests were found upon the ground, at the base of trees, and upon rafters of sheds and barns. The birds are extremely tame, and are found in numbers about dwelling places.

HOUSE WREN. *Troglodytes aëdon aëdon*. These are common winter visitors, but they do not stay around habitations as they do during the breeding season. They were plentiful at Avery Island in November, 1925, and a few were seen on Chenier au Tigre the first week in December.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. *Cistothorus stellaris*. Owing to the secretive habits of these little fellows, they are hard to observe. They occur more or less commonly on the ridges and at the edges of the marsh, during the winter. We have specimens collected near Pilot Town, the last week in October, 1928; several were observed at this time, and Bailey has taken others, one on Bayou Ferman, Vermilion Parish, November 25, 1916, and another on Chenier au Tigre in December, 1925.

PRAIRIE MARSH WREN. *Telmatodytes palustris iliacus*. This form probably occurs more or less commonly, but owing to the habits of the long-bills, there are few in collections. Bailey took a male of this form, October 24, 1928, near Pilot Town, at Chateau Canard. This is the first record for the state, as far as we know.

LOUISIANA LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. *Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus*. This well-marked, dark-colored bird is the common breeding bird of the region. They are abundant in certain areas along the coast, and on one afternoon walk, we counted more than thirty. They prefer the cane, tules, and cattails in the open marsh, and we saw many perched on the highest point, where they sang their "spring song". Several old nests were found, and one new one which contained four eggs. We could see no difference in the nesting habits of *thryophilus* from that of other subspecies. We found this form along the gulf in Cameron Parish, on Chenier au Tigre, Marsh Island, and on Breton Island. No specimens were secured from the islands off the east coast, however, so we are not sure the birds observed there were of this race.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. *Baeolophus bicolor*. Fairly common in wooded regions, especially in the fall. Many are to be seen on Avery Island after the deciduous trees have dropped their leaves.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. *Regulus satrapa satrapa*. Very common winter birds. They are found on the ridges close to the gulf.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. *Regulus calendula calendula*. These little fellows are also abundant, and may be seen working through the tree tops on any winter day. They are, however, not so common as the preceding form. They arrive from the north the latter part of October, and return again in April.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. *Polioptila caerulea caerulea*. Fairly common during the summer, and a few winter along the gulf. Only a scattering few will be seen in a day's walk through the open woods, however. They were fairly common on Chenier au Tigre in December, 1925.

WOOD THRUSH. *Hylocichla mustelina*. These are fairly common in the fall, and a few may be seen on Avery Island and nearby places during the entire summer. We observed several on Avery Island the second week in May.

HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. While this species is a common one of the wooded area, we have recorded it rarely in the southern part of the state. Several were seen March 9-12, 1931, at Chenier au Tigre, and one specimen was taken.

ROBIN. *Planesticus migratorius* subsp. Robins are very common in the fall, winter, and early spring in the southern area, but we have no early summer or summer records. It is probable that both *migratorius* and *achrusterus* are represented, but we have never taken specimens for comparison.

BLUEBIRD. *Sialia sialis sialis*. The only records we have from the lowlands are in winter. Bluebirds are very common in the Chenier au Tigre and Avery Island at this season, and their sweet, plaintive notes are characteristic sounds of the southern woods.

LITERATURE CITED

- List of Birds of Louisiana, G. E. Byer, A. Allison, H. H. Kopman, *Auk*, XXIII, XXIV, XXV.
- A List of Birds Seen in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, H. H. Kopman. *Auk*, XXII.
- Warbler Migration in Southern Louisiana and Southern Mississippi. H. H. Kopman. *Auk*, XXII.
- List of Birds of Louisiana, H. H. Kopman. *Auk*, XXII.
- The Birds of Louisiana. Stanley C. Arthur, Bulletin of Louisiana. Department of Conservation, January 1, 1918.
- Notes on the Winter Birds of Chenier au Tigre, Louisiana, Alfred M. Bailey. *Auk*, XLV.
- CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.